

*Order of Worship*  
*TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*  
9:30 am – October 15, 2023

*Participating Live?*

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*No. 1 in C Major from L'Organiste*  
Music: César Franck. Public Domain  
Kyle Hanks, organ

César Franck

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Praise the Lord!

Fran Turner, liturgist

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all his praise?

**Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.**

As we worship, may our hearts be open to your goodness and love,

**And may we be inspired to be among those who do righteousness at all times.**

Adapted from Psalm 106:1-3

**OPENING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

TFWS 2236

Words and Music: Marty Haugen ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; Song #00031 Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, lightyears away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 22: 1-14* (NRSV)  
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Fran Turner, liturgist

**A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

**PREPARATION HYMN**

*Jesus Calls Us* (vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)  
Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1852). Public Domain.  
Music: William H. Jude (1874). Public Domain.

UMH 398

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
  
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
  
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
  
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Diane Rehfield

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*The Wedding Banquet* (see page 3)  
VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, conductor; Kyle Hanks, piano  
Music and words by Miriam Winter. Permission to arrange text and melody granted by the Medical Mission Sisters and Associates

arr. Kyle Hanks

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Lord Jesus, you call us to enter into the joy and the responsibility of following you. Part of that responsibility is tending to others, and so we ask your blessing on these gifts, that they may serve as symbols of our love for you, and of your love for all who are in need. Part of that responsibility is teaching your Word to those who have not heard, and so we ask that our offerings may serve to strengthen worship in this place, that all who enter will know of your grace and compassion, and feel called to follow you. Amen**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Together We Serve*  
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 3379644

TFWS 2175

1. Together we serve united by love inviting God's world to the glorious feast  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy extending Your love to the last and the least
  
2. We seek to become a beacon of hope a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet  
We learn year by year to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet
  
3. We welcome the scarred the wealthy the poor the busy the lonely and all who need care  
We offer a home to those who will come our hands quick to help our hearts ready to dare
  
4. Together by grace we witness and work remembering Jesus in whom we grow strong  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth remembering love is the strength of our song

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

*Rigaudon*  
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Gordon Young

## *Prayer Requests*

**First UMC of San Fernando**—Pastor Teaira Parker

**Woodland Hills UMC**—Pastor Seung-il Whang

Patricia Kochel—recovering from surgery to repair broken due to a fall

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

## *The Wedding Banquet*

Refrain: I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now.

I have married a wife, I have bought me a cow.

I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum.

Pray, hold me excused, I cannot come.

A certain man held a feast on his fine estate in town.

He laid a festive table and wore a wedding gown.

He sent invitations to his neighbors far and wide,

But when the meal was ready, each of them replied: "I cannot come." *Refrain*

The master rose up in anger, called his servants by name.

Said, "Go into the town, fetch the blind and the lame,

Fetch the peasant and the pauper, for this I have willed.

My banquet must be crowded and my table must be filled." "I cannot come." *Refrain*

When all the poor had assembled there was still room to spare,

So the master demanded, "Go search everywhere,

To the highways and the byways and force them to come in.

My table must be filled before the banquet can begin." "I cannot come!" *Refrain*

Now, God has written a lesson for all of humankind.

If we're slow in responding He may leave us behind.

He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day.

When the Lord and Master calls us be certain not to say: "I cannot come." *Refrain*